



883
JAN 10

ADVERTISING
CLASSIFIED
ADVERTISING

15

WORLD AGAINST



ACTION COMICS

**TARGET:
ZOD'S MOST
DANGEROUS
SLEEPER!**

RUCKA
TRAUTMANN
PÉREZ

SECOND FEATURE

CAPTAIN
ATOM



DIRECT SALES



88311
7 61941 20001 9
\$3.99 US DCCOMICS.COM

DHI QAR PROVINCE,
IRAQ

--ON
YOUR FEET,
I SAID.

I BELIEVE
IN GOD.

MOVE,
OR I'LL SHOOT
YOU RIGHT
HERE.

(--COME ON,
GAZZI. THEY'RE
STUDENTS.
ACADEMICS. THIS IS
INSANE--)*

*TRANSLATED
FROM ARABIC.
--Matt

NOT OUT OF SOME
FANTASTICAL SENSE OF
THE SPIRITUAL, OR
BECAUSE DOGMA HAS
BEEN POUNDED INTO ME
BY SHEER ROTE.

YOU KNOW
YOU WON'T GET
AWAY WITH
THIS--

SHUT UP.
SHUT YOUR
MOUTH.

FOR GOD'S
SAKE, KELLIE,
JUST DO WHAT
THEY WANT--

THAT WOULD BE ILLOGICAL,
AND IF I HAVE A CREED, IT
IS EMPIRICISM.

(YOU WANT TO TAKE
THAT CHANCE, WAZIR?
TRUST THAT THEY'LL NOT
REPORT US TO THE
AUTHORITIES?)

MOVE,
DAMN
YOU!

(--YOU KNOW
WHAT THEY DO TO
GUNRUNNERS--)

(UH, GAZZI?
LOOK, UP IN
THE SKY--)

EVERYTHING I MUST DO IS
BORN FROM THAT SIMPLE FACT:
MY GOD EXISTS, AND SPARKS
OF DIVINITY HAVE BEEN
SCATTERED THROUGHOUT
CREATION.

(--NO NO NO.
NOT ONE OF
THEM.)

(GAZZI,
FOR THE LOVE
OF GOD--)

(SHUT UP,
WAZIR.)

BACK AWAY,
SUPERHERO,
OR I'LL KILL
THEM! YOU HEAR
ME?! I'LL KILL
THEM!!





...MOST
SATISFYING

WITH THE ABILITIES
BESTOWED UPON ME BY THIS
PLANET'S YELLOW SUN, IT WAS
NOT DIFFICULT TO BUILD AND
CONCEAL MY LABORATORY.

2008.5.17-18
 2008.5.19-20
 2008.5.21-22
 2008.5.23-24

FINDING THE SITE
TOOK A LITTLE
MORE TIME, OF
COURSE.

**THE SUMERIAN
ZIGGURAT OF UR.**

THE SIMILARITY IN THE NAME WAS STRIKING, AND COULD BE DISCOUNTED AS MERE COINCIDENCE.

BUT IF MY WORK
HAS TAUGHT ME
ANYTHING...

POWER DOWN SECURITY
SYSTEMS. RECOGNITION
CODE: UR-ZETA FOUR.

RECOGNITION CODE
CONFIRMED. DEFENSE
SYSTEMS ON STANDBY.

LAB SYSTEMS POWER-UP
COMPLETE. GENE
SEQUENCERS ONLINE.

www.ck12.org

WELCOME HOME,
JAX-UR.

...THERE ARE NO
COINCIDENCES.

TORONTO.

BURN

BURN

BURN--

RCAF
INCOMING, TWO
MINUTES.

HALF THE CITY
WILL BE ON FIRE IN
TWO MINUTES! DOES
ANYBODY KNOW WHAT
WE'RE DEALING
WITH HERE?

ALIEN ENTITY
KNOWN AS BRIMSTONE,
THOUGH THESE SEEM
TO BE SMALLER
VERSIONS OF THE
ORIGINAL--





GOT IT?

WITH ONE
HAND BEHIND
MY BACK.

DON'T
GET COCKY,
NIGHTWING.

I'M GOING
FOR THE
TOWER.

DIVINE SPARK

part 1

FROM THE MISTS OF
LOST KRYPTON, STORIES
ARE TOLD OF TWO MYTHICAL
HEROES WHO TIME AND TIME
AGAIN ROSE TO PROTECT
THEIR PEOPLE FROM
TYRANNY AND
TERROR.

NIGHTWING
AND
FLAMEBIRD

GREG RUCKA and ERIC TRAUTMANN: Writers

PERE PÉREZ: Artist

JAVIER MENA: Colorist - ROB LEIGH: Letterer

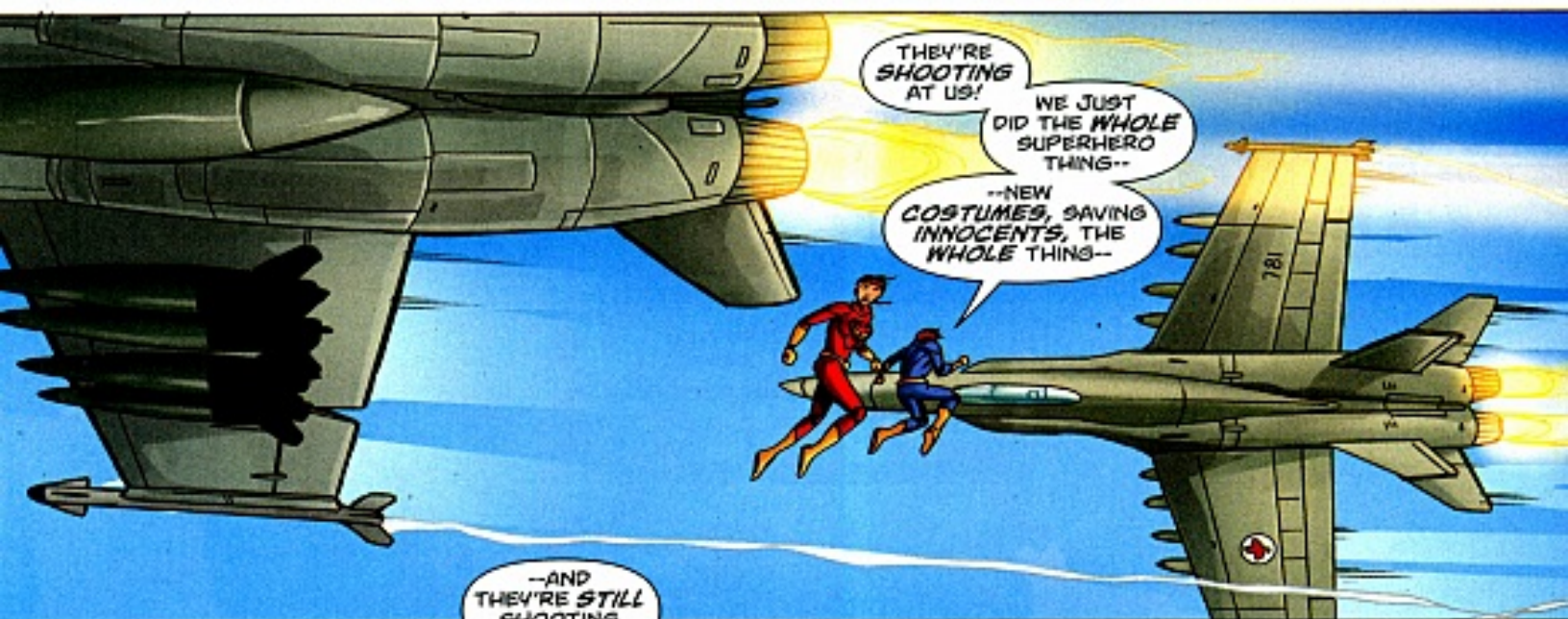
CAFU with SANTIAGO ARCAS: Cover

WIL MOSS: Asst. Editor - MATT IDELSON: Editor

SUPERMAN
created by
Jerry Siegel
and Joe
Shuster









DAILY PLANET,
METROPOLIS.

--REPORTING
FROM
TORONTO...

...WHERE THE
KRYPTONIANS NIGHTWING
AND FLAMEBIRD HAVE
JUST ATTEMPTED TO
DESTROY THE
CN TOWER.



IF SOMEONE DOESN'T
TURN THAT OFF RIGHT
NOW, I WILL TAKE THE .45
I KEEP IN MY DESK FOR JUST
SUCH OCCASIONS AS THIS
AND SHOOT THE TELEVISION
AND ANYONE WHO MIGHT
BE IN THE WAY.



WE NOW
GO LIVE
TO--

KLK THANK
YOU.

UHHH,
EXCUSE ME,
MS. LANE? MY
NAME'S--

NOT NOW.

--ISABEL,
ISABEL GLENN,
I WAS WONDERING...



DON'T KNOW
DON'T CARE
CAN'T TALK.
ON
DEADLINE.



...IF
YOU'VE SEEN
JIMMY...



RON, HOLD
DOWN THE
FORT FOR
ME.

GOTTA
TALK TO
SOMEONE.



S.T.A.R.

--YOU CAN'T
BE SERIOUS,
DR. PILLINGS.

WE ARE STRETCHED
TO THE *BREAKING POINT*,
HERE. HALF MY STAFF HAVE
MOVED OVER TO MILITARY
LABS.

SHOWING UP ON
MY *DOORSTEP* WITH
HAZARDOUS OFFWORLD TECH
IS *NOT* FILLING ME WITH
DELIGHT, EITHER.

I APOLOGIZE,
DR. HOSHI. S.T.A.R.
TORONTO HAS HAD
SIMILAR DIFFICULTIES
OF LATE.

KRYPTONIAN ATTACK IN TORONTO

BUT YOUR
FACILITIES ARE
THE BEST EQUIPPED
FOR EXAMINING
THE TORONTO...
MANIFESTATION.

ADD THE
KRYPTONIANS
TO THE MIX,
AND, WELL...

...AND THE
MILITARY
STEPS IN.

EXACTLY.

WE'RE IN YOUR
SECURE LAB NOW,
DOCTOR. I COULD
USE YOUR INPUT.

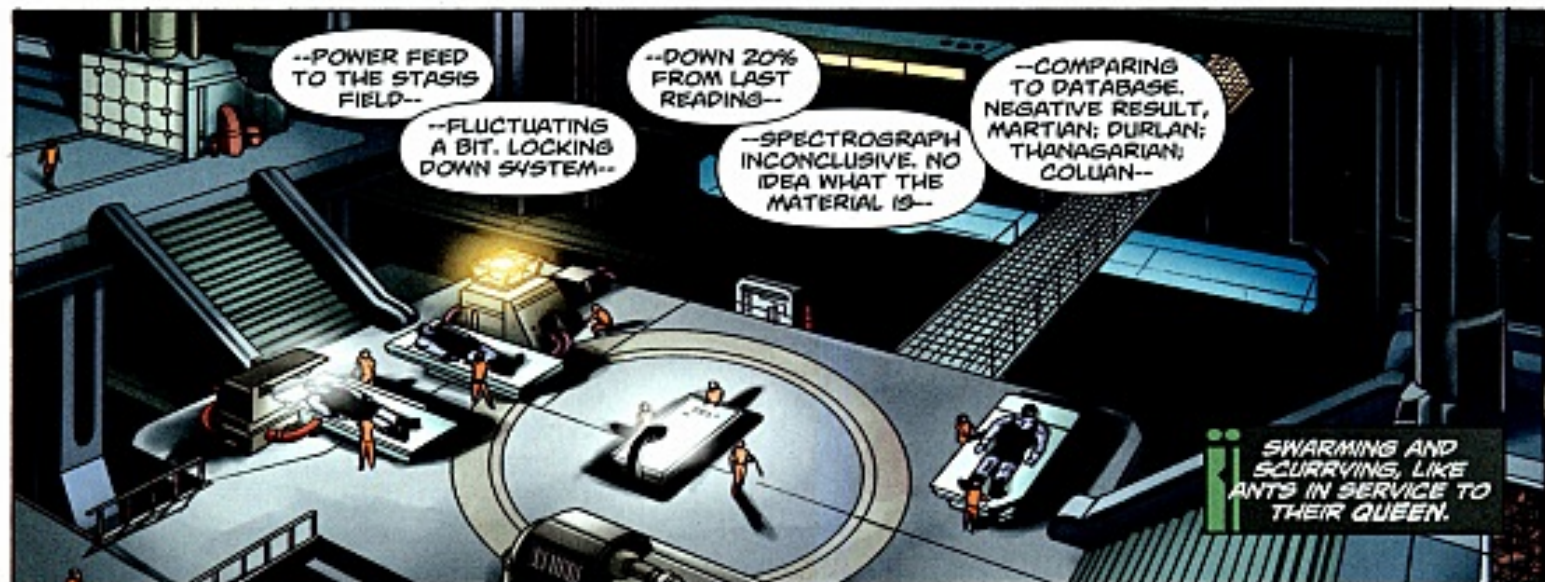
...VERY WELL.
I'LL BE DOWN IN
A MOMENT.

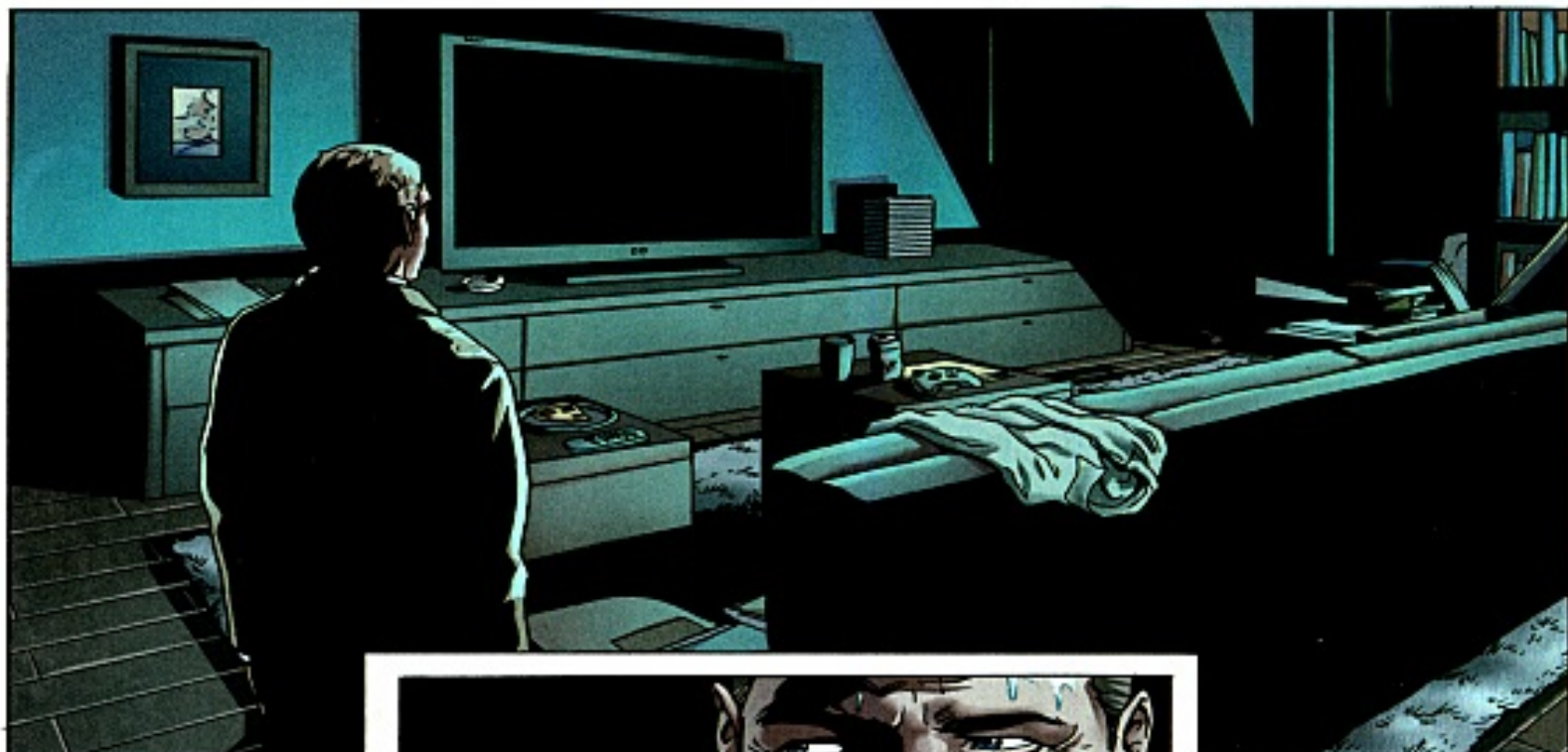
COMPUTER:
SECURITY
ACCESS, CODE
HOSHI SUNSHINE
412.

...SECURE LAB
ACCESS GRANTED,
HOSHI, KIMIYO.

DANGER

FOR ALL THEIR FLAWS,
THE HUMANS POSSESS AN
ADMIRABLE WORK ETHIC.







HONG KONG.

...WHAT YOU
CAN GET WITH A
HANDFUL OF UNCUT
DIAMONDS...

...KARA WAS
RIGHT, WE TOTALLY
NEEDED A PLACE OF
OUR OWN.

THARA,
CHECK OUT
THIS VIEW...

...I CAN SEE
THE FISHERMEN
SLEEPING ON THEIR
JUNKS IN THE
HARBOR...



TOR-AN

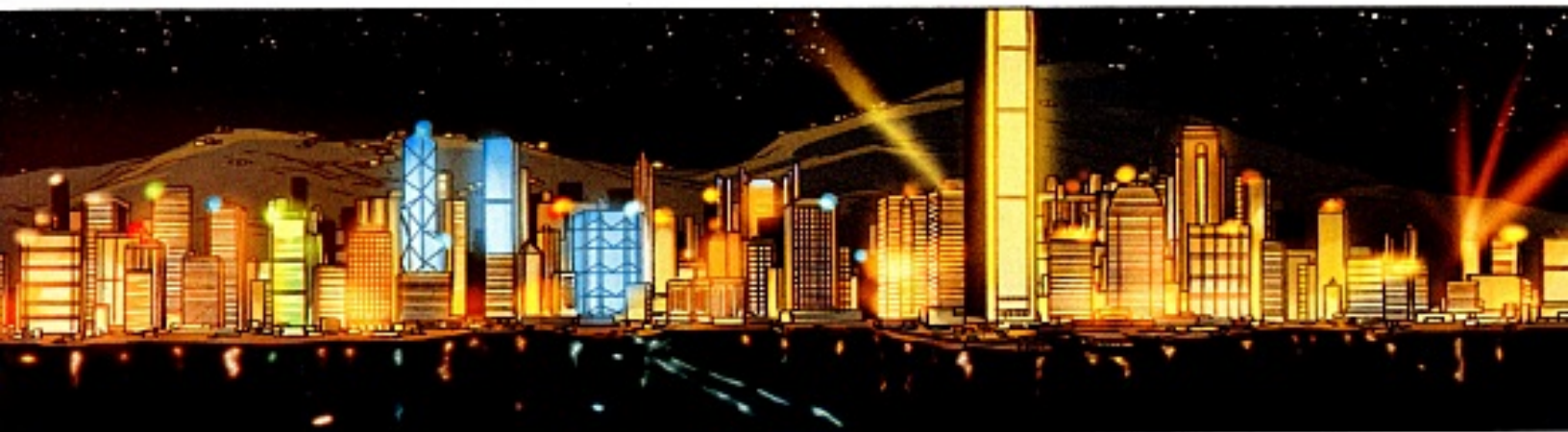


JAX-UR



NADIRA VA-DIM







IT...IT
DOESN'T
WORK LIKE
THAT.

SHE
DOESN'T
REALLY...
TALK TO
ME...



BUT SHE'S
YOU. YOU'RE
HER.

AREN'T
YOU?

...I
DO
WANT
TO
TALK
TO
HER.

I'M HER SHELL,
THAT'S ALL.



BUT...SHE
KISSED
ME.

IF THAT'S
NOT YOU...

SHE WASN'T
KISSING YOU,
CHRIS...



...SHE WAS
KISSING THE
NIGHTWING.

SHE WAS
KISSING HER
MATE.



BUT YOU
DON'T BELIEVE
YOU'RE HIM,
DO YOU?

...I'M
SORRY,
THARA...



...I DON'T.

I'M NOT HIM.
I CAN'T BE HIM.
I'M NOT EVEN A
TRUE KRYPTONIAN.
I'M A...I'M A
MUTANT...

...SOME
FREAK
BORN IN THE
PHANTOM
ZONE...

YOU ARE
WRONG.

YOU ARE
PERFECT.

AND I LOVE
YOU.

THARA...

...I--

NHNNNNN

CHRIS!

NHNNNN

NAAAHHH

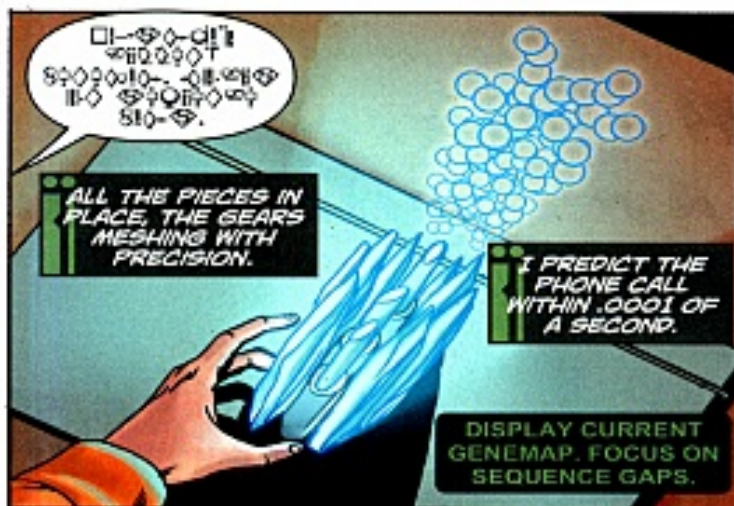
KKKSSSSH





EVIDENCE THAT
MY PLANNING AND
DISCIPLINE WILL SOON
YIELD RESULTS.

A MOMENT
TO SAVOR.



ALL THE PIECES IN
PLACE, THE GEARS
MESHING WITH
PRECISION.

I PREDICT THE
PHONE CALL
WITHIN .0001 OF
A SECOND.

DISPLAY CURRENT
GENEMAP. FOCUS ON
SEQUENCE GAPS.

BA-DEET

INCOMING CALL:
DR. HIMENO
HOSHI.

I'M SORRY
TO DISTURB YOU,
DR. PILLINGS, BUT I
HAVE A SITUATION THAT
REQUIRES YOUR
ASSISTANCE...

...AND YOUR
DISCRETION.



BY ALL MEANS,
DOCTOR, YOU'VE
CERTAINLY PIQUED MY
CURIOSITY.

YOU'RE ONE
OF THE BEST
XENOBIOLOGISTS
IN THE FIELD,
DR. PILLINGS...

...SO
BEFORE THIS
18-YEAR-OLD BOY
DIES OF OLD
AGE...

...WE REALLY
NEED YOUR
HELP.

DR. PILLINGS



TO BE CONTINUED

AND NOW...
CAPTAIN
ATOM





KEEP BACK,
YOU IDIOT!
HE'LL TURN YOU
TO ASH!

COME
PEACEFULLY,
CAPTAIN. LET'S
NOT TURN THIS
INTO A FIGHT.



WAIT,
WHAT AM I
SAVING?



THIS IS
BETTER...
SO MUCH
BETTER...



MONARCH
NO MORE!



GO, NATASHA!
GET GONE!

NO, I BETTER
STAY. IF THE MAJOR
WINS, MAYBE I CAN DO
SOMETHING TO STOP
HIM KILLING ALL
OF YOU.

THAT'S OUR
PROBLEM! IF YOU STAY
UNDERCOVER WITH
7734, THE RESISTANCE
HAS A CHANCE AT
SOMETHING.



YOU HEARD
HIM! GO!

WITHOUT
THAT, WE'RE
JUST RABBLE IN
THE WOODS.



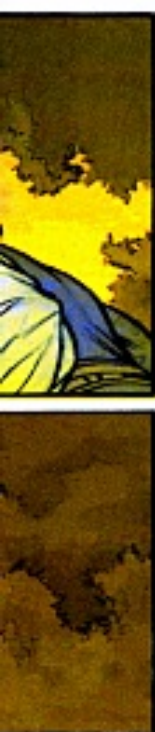
"...BETTER THAN WORKING WITH YOU, FOR SURE."

ALL THE WHILE--ALL THE TIMES
OUR PATHS HAVE CROSSED--
I'VE HATED YOU.

YOU THINK I FEEL
DIFFERENT? YOU'RE A
THUG. A KILLER.

YEAH, WELL
I'M NOT ALONE
UP HERE GUILTY
OF THAT.

"YOU KILLED ME, REMEMBER,
'MONARCH'? OR THOUGHT
YOU DID."



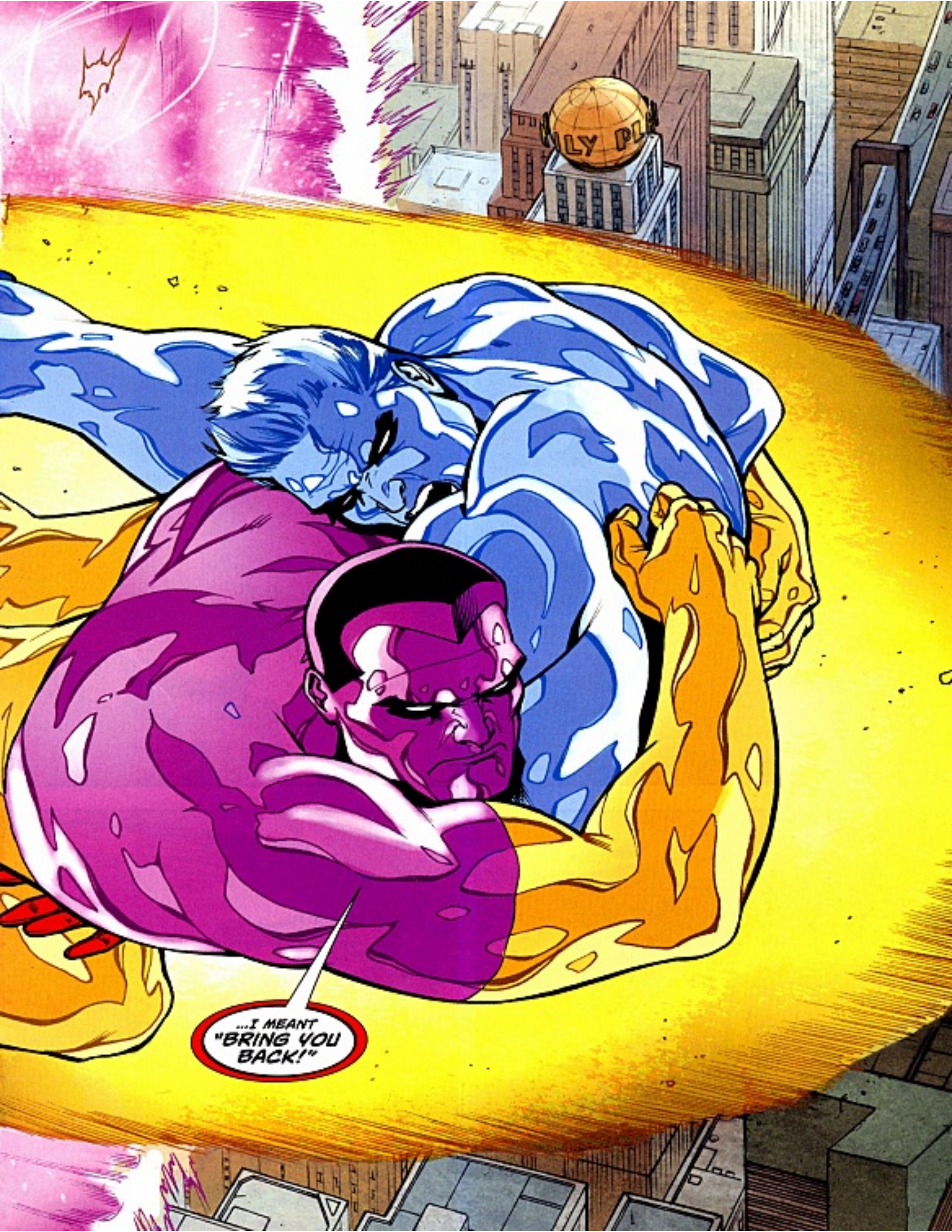
I'VE BEEN ORDERED
TO BRING YOU BACK,
CAPTAIN.

YEAH,
GOOD LUCK
WITH THAT.

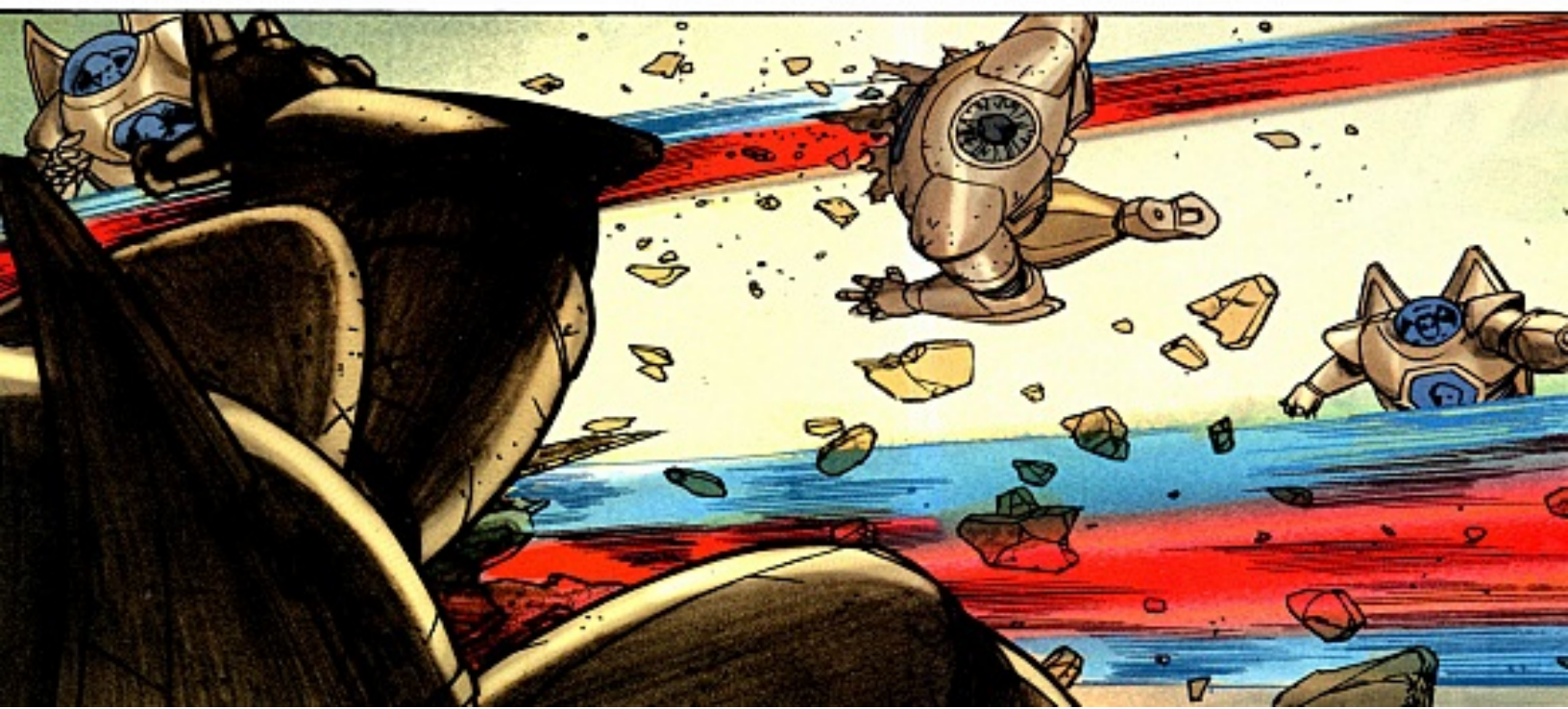


NO, YOU
DON'T GET
IT...





...I MEANT
"BRING YOU
BACK!"





"VICTORY IS IMPOSSIBLE."

OH,
DON'T GET ME
WRONG, NATE, I'D
LOVE TO SEE YOU
TRY AND FAIL.



BUT MY ORDERS
ARE TO RETURN THE
U.S. GOVERNMENT'S
PROPERTY--THAT
BEING YOU--



"...WITH AS LITTLE DAMAGE
TO IT AS POSSIBLE, SO
FOR BOTH OUR SAKES..."



...JUST HOLD
OUT YOUR HANDS
AND LET US PUT THE
CUFFS ON YOU.





HELLO,
CAPTAIN
ATOM.

BOY,
IT SURE
IS WARM
TODAY.

CAPTAIN ATOM

CHAPTER FIVE

JAMES ROBINSON & GREG RUCKA - PLOT
ROBINSON - SCRIPT • CAFU - PENCILLER • BIT-INNER
SANTIAGO AREAS - COLORIST • ROB LEIGH - LETTERER
WIL MOSS - ASST. EDITOR • MATT IDELSON - EDITOR



HEY NATION!

Just got back from Los Angeles (did you really think Senior Story Editor Ian Sattler was the only one who gets to travel?), where I had a great dinner with Joe Straczynski, talked through his next major project and his plans for **BRAVE AND BOLD** (finally, the return of the Five), had drinks with Felicia Henderson to discuss **TEEN TITANS** (and her super addition to the team), a snack with **Lan Wein** (who adds his Legacy to the DCU), even attended the Spike TV Scream Awards with our very own **Geoff Johns**, who proudly walked away with the Favorite Comics Writer Award, and celebrated the night away in the Hollywood Cemetery (how Blackest Night of us!!)

Last and certainly not least, I got to put down the Executive Editor hat and pick up the writer's pencil to meet with **Philip Tan** to talk through our plans on **OUTSIDERS**. And while I don't want to give anything away yet, I have attached some of Philip's designs for the series just so that you in the Nation can have a sneak peek at what's in store. January is two months away, but the fun is already starting.

To be continued. DD

DC NATION

TEXT DC NATION TO 62407 TO GET THE LATEST DC UNIVERSE NEWS, ALERTS AND SPECIAL OFFERS! Standard carrier rates may apply.

DC COMICS DAN DIDIO, Senior VP/Executive Editor PAUL LEVITZ, President & Publisher GEORGE BREWER, VP/Design & DC Direct Creative RICHARD BRUNING, Senior VP/Creative Director PATRICK CALDON, Executive VP/Finance & Operations CHRIS CARAMALIS, VP/Finance JOHN CUNNINGHAM, VP/Marketing TERRI CUNNINGHAM, VP/Managing Editor MARILYN DRUCKER, VP/Brand Management AMY GENONS, Senior VP/Business & Legal Affairs ALISON GILL, VP/Manufacturing DAVID HYDE, VP/Publicity HANK KANALZ, VP/General Manager, WildStorm JAY KOGAN, VP/Business & Legal Affairs/Deputy General Counsel JIM LEE, Editorial Director/WildStorm GREGORY NOVECK, Senior VP - Creative Affairs RICH PALERMO, VP/Business & Legal Affairs/Deputy General Counsel RON PERAZZA, VP/Creative Services SUE POHJIA, VP - Book Trade Sales STEVE ROTTERDAM, Senior VP/Sales & Marketing CHERYL RUBIN, Senior VP/Brand Management ALCESSE SCOLL, VP/Advertising & Custom Publishing JEFF TROJAN, VP/Business Development, DC Direct BOB WAYNE, VP/Sales

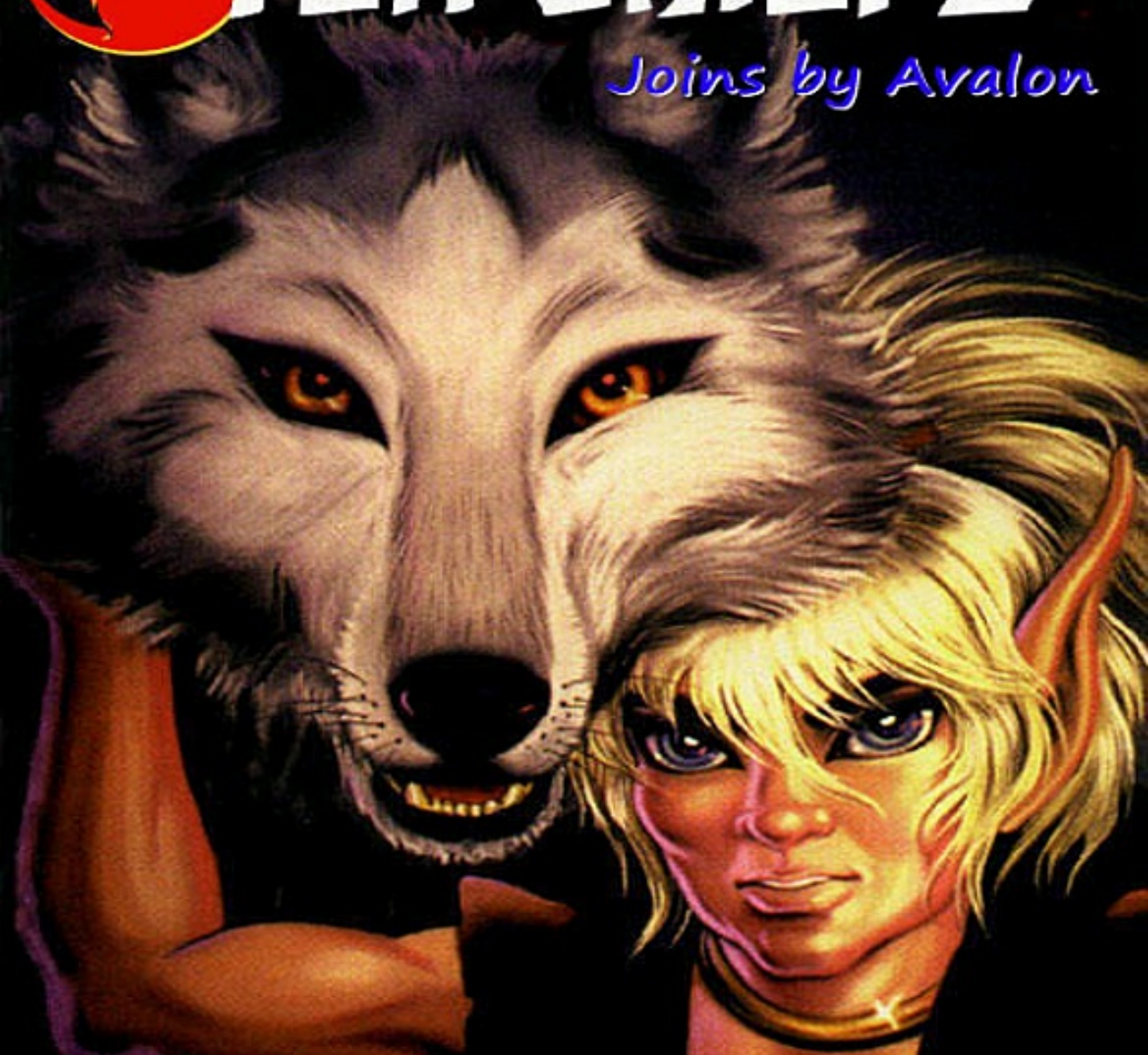
SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY Fiber used in this product line meets the sourcing requirements of the SFI program. **ACTION COMICS** #853, January, 2010. Published monthly by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ACTION COMICS, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 308, Cresskill, NY 10903. Annual subscription rate (12 issues) \$30.00. Canadian subscribers must add \$12.00 for postage and GST. GST # is R125621072. All foreign countries must add \$12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 2010 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories or artwork. This book is manufactured at a facility holding chain-of-custody certification. This paper is made with sustainably managed North American fiber. Printed by World Color Press, Inc., Montreal, QC, Canada, 11/04/09.

DC Comics, a Warner Bros. Entertainment Company



TEN CHIEFS

Joins by Avalon



SECOND CLASS CITIZEN



DCP